



Nena News

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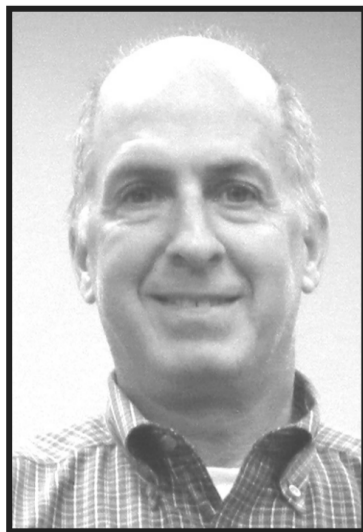
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President's Message

—
William Harkins



I would like to start by thanking you our members for your support through your membership and donations to our programs. This is your organization in order to make it successful we need your participation whether you fill a vacancy on our board, submit a news article, place an exhibit, bring a child to our Y.N Program or just drop by the club table during one of our events and say hello. I am also asking our members and clubs to promote our organization and help bring in new members.

I am happy to report that Larry Erhart has taken the State Directors position for Rhode Island. Larry currently serves as the Vice President for the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club, Westerly, RI. Thank you!

On April 15 & 16, the New England Numismatic Association participated with the New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo, Manchester, N.H. Our activities included the Club Table, Y.N Table where we talked to the kids and their parents giving the kids coins and numismatic materials. We also had Non-Competitive Exhibits including NENA's highlighting our medals program; an exhibit on Massachusetts Town Medals; an exhibit honoring the late Jack Haroian, former board member and Y.N Coordinator and an exhibit on The Devolution of The Venezuelan Bolivar. We would like to thank EBW Promotions, LLC for donating the space and tables for our activities and to those that donated numismatic materials for the Y.N program.

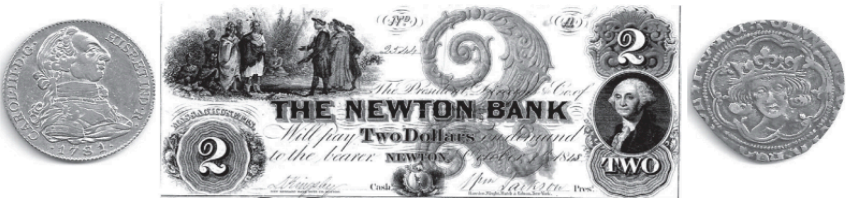
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From The Desk of The Editor

—
Tyler M. Rossi



I have to say, one of my favorite ancient numismatic topics revolves around contemporary forgeries. I am fascinated, not only by what forces drive individuals to produce fraudulent currency, but how they actually do it, as well as the processes through which we can detect these fakes thousands of years later.

Nearly two years ago when I began writing articles for CoinWeek, I wrote a popular piece on fourees titled: Collectible or Not? A Study of Ancient Coin Fourées. Comprising a base metal core and a precious metal shell, fourees are a common type of ancient forgeries. Many of these counterfeit coins, especially the Republican Roman Serrate denarii, were made by placing a bronze core of appropriate size and weight between two thin sheets of precious metal. By striking this bundle, the moneyer would fuse the metals and, create a finished product that, depending on the artistic skills of the die cutter, would look more or less like the original.

While they are not true, authentic, ancient coins, I believe that fourees are fascinating and collectable in their own right! Not only can they tell us about ancient trade and monetary activities, but they can also fill in the numismatic record when there are authentic issues which have not been discovered. This is particularly important when the written and archeological records are scarce and the rulers in question are only known by their numismatic legacy.

Despite this, some purists will continue to view fourees as merely historical oddities of little to no importance, they can provide countless hours

of challenge and study for an interested numismatist. Once a collector accepts a fouree as a legitimate historical artifact, and not just a forgery, it is possible to accept their intrinsic value as a demonstration of humanity's artistic skill, greed, and ingenuity.

That being said, I always thought that fourees were made in the tetradrachmai, drachmai, and maybe an occasional hemidrachmai. I came to this conclusion based solely on the assumption that the financial benefit of such a small counterfeit would not be enough to compensate for the potential punishment. Especially when many cultures, countries, and kingdoms considered counterfeiting a capital crime, punishable by death. A year ago, when I purchased a bulk lot of fractional Greek silver coins, I was however proven wrong. I had found a miniscule silver fouree.

Because unlike modern counterfeits, ancient fourees were rarely the exact weight set by the local mint, I was unable to determine what the exact denomination of this piece was. However, based on its size I am relatively certain that it is either a Trihemitetartemorion or Hemiobol, a 1/8 drachm or .36 grams and 1/12 drachm or .27 grams respectively. While I was able to quickly determine that this piece was a fouree because the silver shell had broken, the bronze core was badly corroded. As a result, I could not reliably use its weight in the attribution. Especially since the two possible denominations are so close in weight. Also, because of the corrosion, I was unable to determine where or when it was struck. Despite this uncertainty, I hold it as quite an interesting piece. It is always an adventure trying to identify these small fractional coins, especially when they are purchased in large, unattributed bulk lots.

A further benefit is that most low grade fourees sell at a steep discount compared to the authentic versions. For example, Alexander the Great tetradrachm fourees are periodically available for between \$75 and 150. Or, if you manage to find a true high-quality example of an Athenian war issue fouree tetradrachm, expect to spend upwards of \$500-750 depending on the auction. This is still however much less than the nearly \$1000 to \$2000 for the authentic version.

Just some food for thought!

UPCOMING COIN SHOWS (2022)

Listings are free to member clubs or promoters. For other clubs or promoters the cost is \$20 per listing for the remainder of the calendar year. Please make out checks payable to **NENA** and send to **John Ferreri, P.O. Box 33 -Storrs, CT 06268**. Send questions to: johnnybanknote@yahoo.com

Connecticut:

- Sunday March 20th - Cromwell, CT. (9am -3pm) Courtyard Marriott, 4 Sebeth Drive (40 tables) Contact: John Stassins 718-323-1930
- Saturday March 26th, April 30th, May 21st, and June 25th (9:00am-3:00pm) Naugatuck, CT - Legion Post #17, 21 Cedar St. (20 tables) Contact: John Stassins 718-323-1930
- Sunday May 1st (8:30 am-2:30 pm) Norwich, CT - Holiday Inn Hotel 10 Laura Blvd (Near the DMV) Exit 11 on I-395 (Over 30 Dealer) Free Admission Contact - Pawcatuckvalleycoinclub.org

Massachusetts:

- Sunday March 13, April 10, Aug 14, Nov 13, Dec 11 (9:30am - 2:30pm) Auburn, MA - Elks Lodge, 754 Southbridge St (RT 12) - 46 Tables Contact: EBW Promotions 978-658-0160
- Sunday Feb 27, March 27, April 24, May22, Sept 25, Oct 23, Nov 27 (9:00am - 3:00pm) Devens, MA - Springhill Suites (Marriott) 31 Andrews Pkwy - 75 Tables Contact: EBW Promotions 978-658-0160
- Bay State Coin Show: July 28 - 30 (Fri-Sun) Pre ANA, Marlborough MA Best Western/Royal Plaza Hotel - 181 Boston Post Rd. (West) - 150 tables Contact: Ed Aleo P.O. Box 240 Clinton, MA 01510, 781-729-9677
- Fifth Sundays of the month, Mattapoisett, MA Knights of Columbus Hall 57 Fairhaven Rd (off Rt 6) Coin Club of Greater New Bedford www.ccgnb.com

New Hampshire:

- April 15-16th (Fri-Sat), Oct. 14-15 (Fri-Sat) 10AM-4-PM, (Manchester, NH) New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo. Doubletree Hilton - 700 Elm St. Contact: EBW Promotions, LLC. www.nhcoinexpo.com
- Third Sunday of each month (except April and October), Nashua, NH - Eagle's Wing Function Center, 10 Spruce St. Contact: EBW Promotions 978-658-0160

New York & Other States:

- Sunday - (Date TBA) Mount Kisco, NY) Coin and Collectibles Fair (Venue TBA) Contact:Jon Lerner 914-297-9282 - www.coinandcollectiblesfair.com
- March 31-April 2, 2022 (Baltimore, MD) Whitman Coin & Collectibles Spring Expo - Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street Baltimore, MD Contact: 404-214-4373

Higley Coppers

Peter Jones (MA, MD, MBA)

Dr. Samuel Higley (ca. 1687–1737), born in Simsbury, Connecticut, studied medicine at Yale University under Dr. Samuel Mather and Dr. Thomas Hooker. Simsbury at the time was one of the largest townships in Connecticut. The town of Granby did not exist. It was incorporated in 1786, nearly 50 years after Higley died. Higley seems to have been a polymath — schoolmaster, surgeon, metallurgist, and blacksmith. Contemporaries regarded him as an eccentric genius.

In 1705 colonists discovered copper in the Township of Simsbury at a place called “Copper Hill”. Two years later the town formed a copper mining company. In 1712 the town gave a 30-year lease to three men, Jonathan Belcher, William Partridge and Rev. Timothy Woodbridge. From 1712 to 1741 Belcher, a wealthy man, invested £15,000 in the venture, which he lost. He traveled to England, returning with 12 miners and a refiner. Because of low volumes, he closed the refinery and instead shipped the ore to Bristol, England. Belcher later became Governor of Massachusetts in the 1730s, and Governor of New Jersey in the 1740s.

Other reports say colonists smelted copper clandestinely as copper smelting contravened the mercantilist British law. Regardless, most colonists could not make money out of copper mining.

In 1727 Higley patented a process to make steel and in 1728 Connecticut awarded him exclusive rights to make steel for ten years. Steel was ideal for making dies, though it should be said that Hull may have used Spanish steel to make his Oak Tree dies in the 1650s.

In 1728 Higley bought 143 acres in present-day Granby, which included a copper mine. He also exported the rich ore to England and made money

Continued on next page

doing this. Clement Bailey wrote in 1976 that Higley found pure copper nuggets in his mine, obviating the need for expensive smelting, and from which he may have made his coins.

In May 1737 Higley sailed to England with some of his copper ore. The ship went missing and it is presumed that he drowned at sea. In 1773 the Connecticut General Assembly converted his mines and mine buildings into a jail called Newgate Prison. Prisoners had to mine copper ore. They often escaped. The complex caught fire three times. Connecticut abandoned it in 1827.

The Granby coppers were the first domestic copper coins in America, with the dates 1737, 1739, and a few undated. We call these Granby or Higley coppers. But who struck them? Higley's will written in 1734 discussed his land and mine, but nothing about coin making equipment.

Sylvester Crosby in his *Early Coins* wrote:

“Owing to the fine quality of the metal of which they were composed, (they) were much in favor as an alloy for gold, and it is probably due in part to this cause that they are now so extremely rare. We are informed of an old goldsmith, aged about 75 years, that during his apprenticeship, his master excused himself for not having finished a string of gold beads at the time appointed, as he was unable to find a Higley copper with which to alloy the gold; thus, indicating that they were not easily obtained sixty years ago.”

According to Dan Freidus, neutron activation analysis shows Granby coppers to be 97–99.5% pure copper. There are traces of gold, antimony and zinc (similar in composition to most contemporary coins though the assay excluded tin). This illustrates well that most of the coins' history is “still based on legend rather than documented sources”.

Capt. John Higley (1649 – 1714), Samuel's father, was an English immigrant and blacksmith who became a wealthy merchant. According to Walter Breen and Roger Moore MD, an older brother John Higley Jr. (1673–1741) survived Samuel Higley. Bowers says John was Samuel's older son.

As well as his older brother, Samuel had business associates including Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, and William Cradock, who all petitioned three times in 1739 (together with a John Read of Boston) for a franchise to strike copper for Connecticut. The Court never replied. Bowers opined that his son , Woodbridge, or Craddock may have struck the coins.

John Kraljevich suggests that another person running his affairs, who could profit from them, may have struck the coins. The die engraving of all the coins seems similar.

Harking back to previous discussions of the new (Gregorian) and old (Julian) style calendar, the first coin dated 1737 (being before the 1752 changeover) would put the date as March 25th or later, only five weeks before May when Higley was lost at sea.

In 1994, Dan Freidus presented a definitive die classification during an American Numismatic Society exhibit. He gathered Higley coppers from different sources. He listed 15 different die marriages from eight obverse and five reverse dies. Around that time the consensus of coins totaled 66 specimens.

Before answering who struck the coins, let us examine the coins. They were hammer struck with no collar, so some coins are often double struck and even out of round. Their edges are plain, borders beaded, and die orientation random. Measuring 28–30 mm, they weigh 8.00 to 10.65 grams. For comparison, English halfpennies measured 27–29 mm and weighed around 10 grams. Thus, Granby coppers looked and felt like an English halfpenny.

Many obverses show a deer as the device. Today we often see deer in Connecticut. But the State of Connecticut online site states, “Due to over-harvesting, and a general loss of deer habitat caused by extensive clearing of the land for farming, white-tailed deer were uncommon in Connecticut from 1700 to approximately 1900”. Settlers hunted deer and used them for venison and for their skins.

The first listed die obverse shows the deer device with the legend: THE
Continued on next page

VALUE OF THREE PENCE (Die 1). Die 3 shows a different legend VALVE ME AS YOU PLEASE. Just because Die 1 is pictured before Die 2 and 3, does not reflect a chronological order.

A second legend reads VALVE ME AS YOU PLEASE with a III in the exergue (Die 2 & 3). Experts have made several deductions from these dies. In 1737 the die engraver valued the copper (equivalent to an English halfpenny which passed as a penny in the colonies) at three pence. A big difference. The same year the die engraver engraved another legend as “value me as you please” yet placed “III” in the exergue. Could these coins have been a way of showing the colony of Connecticut their wears, before applying for a franchise in 1739.



Die 1.3 obverse. Courtesy Heritage auctions HA.com



Die 3 obverse. Courtesy Heritage Auctions HA.com



Die 4 obverse. Courtesy Heritage Auctions HA.com



Die A reverse. Courtesy Heritage Auctions HA.com



Die C reverse. Courtesy Heritage Auctions HA.com (Broad-axe handle points to Y = no date)



Die D reverse. Courtesy Heritage Auctions HA.com (Broad-axe handle points to T=Date 1739)

Sylvester Crosby tells this story:

“We have heard it related of Higley, that being a frequent visitant at the public house, ... he was accustomed to pay... in his own coin...When complaint was made to Higley, upon his next application for entertainment (liquor), which was after a somewhat longer absence than was usual...he presented coppers bearing the words. ‘Value me as you please’ ‘I am good copper’.”

This to me seems fable. It is unlikely that, within the space of five weeks, Higley engraved a new obverse and reverse, coined the money, and returned to spend it at his local pub, expressly to save money. Thus, one cannot be sure that “value me as three pence” preceded “value me as you please”.

The coins hold other clues. The three crowned hammers are from the coat of arms of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, a London England guild established in 1571. Samuel Higley and his father were both blacksmiths.

There are other devices on the coins. Some say the broad-axe with “I cut my way through”, a black humor saying about a surgeon operating. “A wheel goes round”, which could refer to philosophic maxims like

Continued on next page

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*Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths
Coat of Arms*

zontally means a person is proceeding on the path to their destiny. Pointing with the index finger can also symbolize fire.

Here I think they used it as a punctuation symbol. The hand was first used in this manner in medieval manuscripts to mark corrections or notes. They called the symbol an index or manicule and used it to direct attention to something, which looks like the intended meaning here.

The pentacle represents air, earth, water, fire (all important in blacksmithing) and the spirit, the five essentials of life. It was also used as a magical talisman and in Tarot decks as one of the suits. There are five Tarot suits; swords, wands, cups, and pentacles or coins — an interesting thought that the pentacle symbolizes a coin. The pentacle also represented the five wounds of Christ used in freemasonry. The blazing star in freemasonry represents the sun which enlightens the earth.

Freemasonry was alive and well in America in 1730s. In 1734 they elected Benjamin Franklin as Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania. Four Grand Lodges started in America in the 1730s. It is possible some of the symbolism used on the coins relates to freemasonry or a secret society.

the humdrum of everyday life, what goes around comes around, or you win some and you lose some. Or it may have advertised a product like steel wheel hoops.

Four other devices are present: the moon, a pointing hand, pentacle, and starburst. The moon, seen below the III and below the O of YOU in die 3, represent death, rebirth, and understanding the spirit in freemasonry.

A pointing hand was used to start each legend. A hand pointed up means heaven and a hand pointed down means the soul. Pointing horizontally means a person is proceeding on the path to their destiny. Pointing with the index finger can also symbolize fire.

Continued on next page

It is tempting to say the J instead of I in the reverse dies C and D could signify John, but the two letters were interchangeable at the time! The Connecticut Historical Commission also made souvenir pieces.

So, who engraved the dies and struck the coins? It is certainly possible that Samuel designed the motifs for the coins, which might account for the blacksmith's three crowned hammers. The moon, pentacle and starburst could have been his design or the die engraver's.

While it is possible Samuel did everything, unless his death was misreported, this seems unlikely. Some say he may have engraved the first dies and struck the first coins. But he left after a few weeks. The similarity of the dies, and eight obverses and five reverses of the same fabric is too much to explain. We need to look for another person.

With 15 die combinations and a census of around 70 surviving coins, we cannot interpret this as a lark, done over a few weeks. His older brother, John, or a business associate may have engraved all the dies and struck all the coins as a business venture rather than as a lark. Samuel may have shown this individual how to engrave, soften, then harden the steel dies. This explanation seems the most likely to me.

In addition, Samuel obtained smelted copper from England. It seems unlikely they would have found enough nuggets of pure copper in their mine to have struck this quantity of coins. Finally, they may have been preparing for a coin franchise, for which they applied in 1739.

Swiss painter Pierre Eugene du Simitiere (1737–1784) owned seven Higley coppers, presumably as their date matched his birthdate! He called them “deer money”. Du Simitiere is famous for painting the first known portrait of George Washington and designing the Great Seal of the United States, later used on the small eagle and large eagle 1791 cents. Du Simitiere also suggested the motto E Pluribus Unum for the US. He taught drawing to Jefferson's daughter, Martha. A great collector, he created America's first Museum of Natural History from his own collection. His coin collection which led to the first coin auction in America, was sold by Clarkson and Hazard in Philadelphia in 1785.

John Adams Bolen (1826–1907) was a numismatist and die sinker who made Higley copies. At the age of 24 Bolen moved from New York City to Springfield, Massachusetts, where a jeweler and manufacturer, Rumrill and Shumway employed him. At the age of 32 or 33 he became a sales agent for the National Sewing Machines company. He also did part-time engraving and made jewelry. His avocation became full time in his late 30's. Neil Musante, the author of the two-volume master work on Washingtonia, wrote a book about Bolen and his medals.

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Bolen sold his items at W. Elliot Woodward's store. Woodward (1825–1892), initially a pharmacist by trade, started auctioning coins in 1862. Like most numismatists at the time, he collected and dealt with stamps, books, coins, and other collectibles. He became extremely wealthy. His estate listed in 1870 for \$330,000. This was at a time when the average working wage was 11 cents an hour or \$300 a year for a 60-hour working week. At the time, struck copies and electrotypes of otherwise unavailable coins sold well in auction houses as well.

As a skilled engraver, Bolen's copies could be dangerously accurate, though when he made totally unconnected mules, everybody knew! Bolen copies of colonial American coins are rare. He struck them with a screw press and no collar, thus edges were rounded.

Q. David Bowers in his *Colonial American Coins* has a whole chapter on the important topic of 19th century colonial copies and fantasies. He lists Bolen's Higley copies — about the closest most of us will ever come to owning a Higley! Even about good originals sell for over five figures!

The coin that follows is a Higley-Confederatio Bolen-Edwards mule, Bowers W-14580, which Bowers lists as three or four known, of which two are in the ANS, and none in Ford collection. Bolen made both of these colonial copy dies around 1864. Musante lists the obverse as JAB-10, and the reverse as JAB-7.

Dr. F.S. Edwards M.D. of New York City acquired several Bolen dies and paired them illogically in an effort to make the extra delectable for collectors. Bowers describes Edwards as a rascal and shadowy figure.

Bowers labels the coin as JAB-M/E 13. Both sides have been canceled, which shows up as raised bars. ♦



*Higley-Confederatio Bolen-Edwards
mule, Bowers W-14580*



*Higley Electrottype (1737) #632
Freidus 3-C*

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Yale's New Numismatic Gallery

Benjamin D. R. Hellings

Jackson-Tomasko Associate Curator of Numismatics, Yale University Art Gallery



Entrance to the new numismatics gallery. American Bank Note Company collage in background. To its right, in the display case the Nobel Prize Medal for Literature presented to Eugene O'Neill.

The numismatic collection at Yale, dating to the early 19th century, is one of the University's oldest collections. Before 1840, the College owned only a small smattering of coins, mostly modern with just 28 pieces dating to the ancient world. Since then, the collection has grown exponentially, now consisting of well-over 120,000 objects, 35,000 of which are ancient coins. It is by far the largest numismatic collection at any American university and among the largest in the nation.

Despite the collection's long history and impressive size, it has only recently enjoyed the benefits of being easily and publicly available. Originally, the numismatic collection was under the aegis of the University Library, where it had a dedicated study room but very little in the way of public display space. Many even in New Haven were unaware of the collection's existence, which is home to the Betts collection and many other prominent collections and objects. The ability to study the objects in person was further limited due to the restrictive availability of the then-curator who was only employed two half-days per week.

In 2001, the numismatic collection was transferred to the Yale University Art Gallery and the following year employed a curator (William E. Metcalf) to start making the collection accessible. This process included the installation of two display cases. The Yale Art Gallery underwent a major renovation between 2004 and 2012 and significantly improved the standing of numismatics at Yale. In 2007, the curatorship was endowed by Ben Lee Damsky to create a permanent full-time curator of numismatics at Yale (the Ben Lee Damsky curatorship). This was followed by the establishment of a permanent storage space and study room for the “new” numismatics department (The Bela Lyon Pratt Study Room). The renovations also moved the numismatics gallery to a new area in the museum and increased the number of display cases from two to six.

Although the new space was an immense improvement from the past offering there remained room for improvements. For instance: the space did not offer the ability to control lighting and the gallery space was framed by many large windows which prevented the long-term display of paper objects (money, bonds, stock certificates) and also interfered with coin and medal displays; the 25-plus feet high ceilings, while grandiose, dwarfed and overshadowed the small objects by making them appear smaller and almost invisible to any visitor; and the space itself was also very limited in square footage and therefore limited the number of display cases that could be installed.

In recent years, the numismatics department at Yale has undergone another renaissance. A second curatorship of numismatics was endowed in 2017 (the Jackson-Tomasko curatorship) and on May 13th, 2022, after several years of discussion and careful planning a new numismatic gallery was opened. The new gallery was a large undertaking, requiring a complete overhaul of the space and an enormous amount of thought and planning went into the design and execution. New walls were built, and all of the pre-existing walls were strengthened. The electrical cables were rewired, a new floor was installed, and state of the art numismatic cases were designed with specialized lighting and optimum acrylic panes.

This new gallery was designed to not only showcase the objects in their

Continued on next page

best light but also protect and conserve them while on display. This new design rectifies nearly all the problems from the previous space and allows the creation of a small numismatic wing at Yale. These efforts and investments reflect the Gallery's commitment to emphasizing the growing importance of numismatics and to recognize its extensive collection.

This new permanent numismatics gallery includes three sections. The first section is dedicated entirely to ancient coinage; one of the collection's strengths. The second section employs a thematic approach with cases dedicated to North America, Trade and Commerce, Production, Yale, The Naseby Cup, and Medalllic Art. These cases will focus on objects dating from the 18th century through to the 20th century. The third section of the gallery is devoted to paper currency and related material; Yale's new collecting priority. Highlights include a Nobel Prize Medal for Literature presented to Eugene O'Neill, a Syracusan Dekadrachm, and an American Bank Note Company collage, to name a few.



Silver medal of Sir William Parkhurst (1644) by Thomas Rawlins, one of the greatest medalists. Parkhurst was Warden of the Exchange and Mint of England for Kings James I, Charles I, and Charles II.

For a limited time, visitors to the Art Gallery will be able to view a selection of bank note related material, in seven display cases, in the old numismatics gallery space. This material is on loan from Susan G. and John W. Jackson and the Liana Foundation Inc. who promised their premier collection of bank note related material to the department and have funded the second curatorship, and support the department. While no end

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date has been set as of the time of writing, this material will remain on display until the late summer.

The new Bela Lyon Pratt Numismatics Gallery offers newcomers to numismatics a beautiful and rich introduction to an oft overlooked component of the art world without being overwhelmed by the vastness of the collection. It is the long-term intention that the new numismatics gallery will be used as a rotational space and the installations will change on a bi-annual basis. All visitors will enjoy viewing iconic objects and rarities that seldom receive attention. The new permanent gallery of numismatics marks a watershed moment in the collection's history as the Gallery commits to the preservation, study, and expansion of its preeminent teaching and research numismatic collection. ◇

The Story of Tehuana

Patrick J. Curran Ph.D



1963 "Tehuana" 10 Peso note

At the February 2011 coin show sponsored by International Coin Club of El Paso, Texas, I put in an exhibit entitled, The Modern Currency of Mexico. On the final day as I was beginning to take down the exhibit a gentleman approached me with a faded article about the Pick #35 Mex-

ican Peso Note known as “The Tehuana”. This note was in circulation from 1937 until its replacement in 1967 by a note printed in Mexico.

The article bore no author’s name but identified the face as belonging to Estela Ruiz Valazques. The original picture was taken when she was 25 years old in 1936 by the Pension Agency. President Lazaro Cardenas wanted Mexican themes and views used on the new notes designed and printed by the American Bank Note Company for the 10 Peso note. When Estela’s picture was shown to Cardenas along with other girls’ pictures, the president himself selected it to be used on the 10 Peso note.

The article quoted Jose Antonio Batiz Vasquez in saying that all the rumors of romances between bank officials and the ladies used on any of the notes were totally untrue. Estela Ruiz Valazquez received neither recognition nor payment for being pictured on the note. Her identity only became known in April of 2002, shortly before her death in April of that year. When the truth became known, she said that “no woman has been in as many male hands as I”. That did not help her much as she died in total poverty with not even 10 pesos to her name. ◇

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Can We Re-Assemble the First Common Proof Set, the 1957?

Mark Benvenuto

For the past few decades, collecting proof sets has been a pretty easy undertaking for any collector who wanted to assemble a date run since millions are made every year. In addition to the standard clad sets, the Mint produces silver proof sets as well as various other offerings. All told, the Mint is able to pound out a few million proof sets per year, and the collector community always seems eager to get them.

But it wasn't always this way. Back in 1950, when the modern proof set era really got started, the sets were not all that common. The first year that the total output topped one million was 1957. There's not much argument that this is the first year we can consider proof sets as common. Yet most sets were quickly broken up and put into books or folders. So, the question is, what might it take to put one of these older, but common, sets back together?



1957 Franklin Half Dollar

The big gun in this task will most likely be the Franklin half dollar. Not only does this coin have more silver than either the quarter or dime, but

Continued on next page



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the high relative price is due to the fact that Franklin halves have been collectible for a long time. In fact, they still make it into the spotlight today. A scan through the major price listing indicates that it will cost approximately \$30 for a PF-65 specimen. On a side note, it will be wise to purchase a slabbed piece to help ensure the grade. For those collectors who don't want to ante up quite that much, a PF-64 or even a PF-63 can be purchased for about \$20. That's tough to beat.

Of course, if money is no object, a collector can purchase a proof Franklin half with a deep cameo finish in a much higher grade with full bell lines, such as PF-67, for hundreds of dollars. Some collectors really are focused on condition and won't mind parting with \$500 or so for an



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1957 Washington Quarter Dollar

amazing half dollar. The rest of us will probably find the more affordable PF-64s to be far more appealing.

Modern quarters are highly collected today mainly for the ever-changing designs on the reverse. But older collectors remember when the long string of Washington quarters was nothing more than a change of dates. While there are collectors of the series, it has never been as hot a series as some others, such as the Franklin halves.

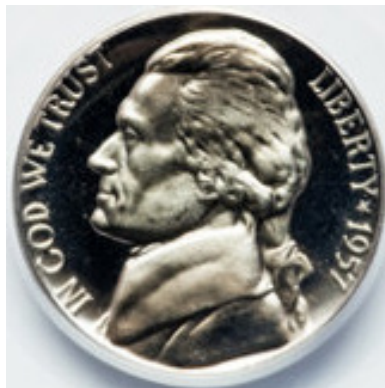
So, focusing on the quarter, a quality specimen in PF-65 will only set back a collector about \$20. Even moving to truly high grades won't cost that much, perhaps \$25 for a piece in PF-67 which is quite a bargain.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Getting small, the 1957 Roosevelt Dime

While Mr. Roosevelt had only graced the obverse of the dime for a few years by 1950 when the Mint got back into the proof set business, by 1957 he had occupied that spot for a decade. Much like the Washington quarters, there has never been all that much buzz around this series. As with the quarter, the dime's design has not changed to this day and remains a parade of dates. The price tag for a 1957 Roosevelt dime is roughly on par with a proof Washington quarter. While it is no bargain based only on the silver melt value, none of us are collecting proof coins



The 1957 Jefferson Nickel

for their silver bullion value.

The largest denomination base metal coin needed for this reconstituted mint set is the Jefferson nickel. Only serious collectors of the series are able to tell us why these proofs hold such a strong attraction for them. Proofs in grades such as PF-56 cost only a couple of dollars, and in re-

Continued on next page

building a 1957 proof set, the price of one of these coins is basically an afterthought. Yet, the strange aspect of the series is that in a grade like PF-67, with a deep cameo finish with full steps, the price skyrockets to thousands of dollars. We can only surmise that the proofs simply didn't strike up all that well. Comparing \$5 for a PF-65 versus \$1K for the same coin at PF-67 seems like a fool's choice for most collectors.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Last but not least, the 1957 Lincoln Cent

Lastly, we come to our humble one-cent piece which is collected avidly by many folks. While these coins can receive all sorts of grading adjectives, such as “red” or “red-brown” when in proof grades, the Mint certainly did not release them that way. All these colors are simply the result of slow oxidation over the course of decades. A collector can land one of these for only a few dollars in a good-looking proof grade such as PF-65. Even if an example with the “red” designation is desired, the cost does go up, but not too dramatically. An piece in absolutely prime condition will cost around \$30.

All together?

When taken together, unless they go for the absolute top grades, a collector can put this classic, but common, proof set back together for less than \$100. Does this price make it worth the time and effort? That is a question each collector must answer for themselves, although those of us who go for it can end up with a gorgeous year set for what an attractive price. Good luck to all of who try! ◇

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Treasures from The Junk Box!

- K is for “Kopia” -

Stanley Sobiech

The Junk Box Column is not for “impaired” articles, but for short interesting experiences from the numismatic world, or for numismatic “finds” in unlikely places or by unusual methods. If you have ever found a “treasure” in a dealer’s “Junk Box” please tell us about it!

- Tyler Rossi -



Shown is a drawing of a genuine Poland Augustus Silver Taler of 1756.

Some time ago when I went to the Brimfield Flea Market. While walking around and checking the dealers show cases, I spotted a Polish Coin. It was a 1756 Silver Taler of King Augustus III. I knew that it should sell for over \$1,000 but this one was only marked \$200 and in excellent condition. My heart started pumping, thinking that poor dealer doesn't even know what he's got and what a deal for me. I felt little guilty for wanting to take advantage of that guy. But when I looked closer at that coin I noticed in small letters, "Ag 925". Well they did not mark coins with the silver purity during that period. So my hopeful good deal was really worth only about \$35. No, I did not buy it because I already had a real one, but it was a good lesson. Someone in Poland did make "official" copies of rare Polish coins that are financially out of reach of a average collector but they put the letter "K" on it. It stands for "Kopia", meaning "copy". So, collectors should keep this in mind when searching through "junk boxes". ♦

Panic of 1873 In New England

Gary E. Lewis

The period following the Civil War was a time of expansion and rapid growth for New England. New industries like milling, lumber, fishing, and other enterprises all formed what is now known as the Golden Age.

As most numismatists know, currency in the 1870's and for most of the nineteenth century was based on specie. Metal money circulated in New England, and many local state banks issued paper banknotes backed by the supply of gold and silver. This system changed due to financial demands imposed by the Civil War. President Lincoln authorized the printing of Demand Notes in 1861, called "Greenbacks", to pay the ballooning expenses of the war.

Just twelve years later, the Panic of 1873 became the first global depression brought about by industrial capitalism. Banks raised millions of dollars through selling bonds to finance construction of the westward expansion of the railroad. However, construction expenses ballooned and outpaced financing, thus efforts to raise additional funds failed. While only the first of many market corrections, the effects of the downturn when Jay Cooke & Company closed its doors in September 1873 were severe and unexpected. It began a regular pattern of boom-and-bust cycles that continues to this day in New England.

This 1873 panic effected numerous small businesses throughout the New England area. During the late 19th and early 20th century, many companies used currency "look alikes" to promote their business and certainly to get people's attention. In addition, because of the severe economic downturn, New England shop owners preferred receiving cash for purchases and those purchasers who did pay in cash expected to receive a discount. One of the most known promoters of these advertising notes were the Tiffany Brothers.

Continued on next page



A typical \$1 denomination piece of scrip

Oscar F Tiffany started his sales promotion of commission scrip in Detroit and later moved to Buffalo where his brother Nelson joined him in the business. The business was located at 265 Washington St, Buffalo NY. Clay Cossack Co and White & Brayley Co., lithographers, printed the scrip in the Buffalo area.

The lithographed Tiffany scrip was normally printed in two formats, a dollar size (6.5 x 3 inches) and a smaller fractional size (3.5 x 2 inches). The fractional scrip was printed to conform to the government fractional size of the government fractional currency then in general circulation. Most of the Tiffany scrip is printed with black ink on white bank note paper. A few examples of brown ink on white paper exist. Tiffany scrip exists in denominations from ten cents to \$50 dollars.

The obverse, or face, of each scrip typically has a one or two beautiful vignettes and the vendors name, line of goods, and address. The reverse, or back, of the scrip typically has a redemption statement like redeem the note for \$5 used in conjunction with a cash purchase of \$100 or more.

The purpose of the scrip was to encourage the return of customers by offering a discount or commission on the next cash purchase. The scrip was accepted only at the retail establishment named on the scrip. For



A typical \$2 denomination piece of scrip

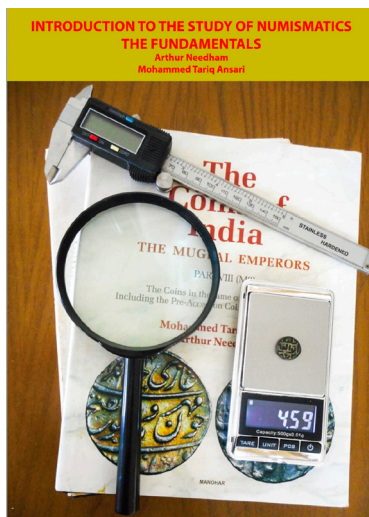
those of you who collect Tiffany commission scrip, I am sure you find it a challenging task because of the rarity of the scrip. Even though fifty-eight merchants in the New England area utilized the Tiffany scrip as a marketing tool, I believe most scrip is R-7 or higher on the rarity scale.

A long-time friend of mine, Gene Hynds, who spent years studying and collecting Tiffany scrip was able to locate Tiffany scrip issued in the New England states by merchants in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Gene's Connecticut records reflect notes issued in Danbury, Hartford, and New Haven by three different merchants. Furthermore, his Maine records reflect notes issued in Auburn, Augusta, Bangor, Belfast, Gardner, Hallowell, and Lewiston by nineteen merchants. The largest number of Tiffany scrip was issued in the following cities in Massachusetts: Arlington, Belfast, Beverly, Boston, Brighton, Cambridgeport, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Hyde Park, Lowell, Lynn, Natick, Northampton, Palmer, Provincetown, Salem, Somerville, Springfield, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, Ware, Webster, and Worcester by thirty-five merchants. Only one merchant in Providence issued scrip in Rhode Island according to Gene's records.

Collecting numismatic items like Tiffany Scrip can be a fun and enjoyable part of this great hobby we all enjoy. ◇

Introduction to the Study of Numismatics the Fundamentals

Arthur Needham and Mohammed Tariq Ansari



This section, and others to follow for the foreseeable future, will include serialized excerpts from the numismatic textbook Introduction to the Study of Numismatics the Fundamentals, recently published by Arthur Needham and Mohammed Tariq Ansari. As acclaimed experts in coins from the Mughal empire and Indian subcontinent, Needham and Ansari put together this handbook as a tool for post-graduate students studying numismatics. While this book mainly focuses on Indian and Mughal coins, I have selected a series of chapters discuss numismatic fundamentals and research that are widely applicable. For interested numismatists, e-book copies are available for purchase at: <https://artandarmo.com/product/785104>.

- Tyler Rossi -

In writing this book, the authors acknowledge that:

“Research in numismatics has been somewhat neglected in several areas

where new technologies have become available that enable us to reach outside the old, moribund boundaries of numismatics. The old days of looking at coins as a separate area of study are long gone. ... After all, coins, from the time of their invention, became the medium of exchange and new systems of trade and commerce developed across the known world. Numismatics thus becomes an integral part of this area of study by recognizing its real fit."

Mohammed Tariq Ansari is a Chartered Accountant and works for a Public Sector Undertaking. His main areas of interest are history and coinage of Delhi and Jaunpur Sultanates and the Mughals. At a young age he learned both Urdu and Arabic which helped him in reading and understanding the Persian script written over the coins. His knowledge of the script and fine eye for detail has resulted in the innovative colour coded transliteration over the coins which was presented for the first time in the book on Shah Alam I Bahadur.



Arthur Needham (FRAS, FRNS, Visiting Professor) retired with a corporate background. He is a former cricket player and an umpire. He has an intense long-term interest in Indian numismatics, history, and the Persian language. His idea to provide illustrated guides to the Sultanate and Mughal coinage to the coin collectors took the practical shape in the form of the 1st volume in the series *The Coins of India Part VII (M7), Silver Coins in the name of Shah Alam I Bahadur*. He has also spent considerable time investigating the use of XRF technology in the study of the alloys of the Indian coins.

Continued on next page

For the Collector of Hand Struck Coins

Introduction to the Study of Numismatics the Fundamentals *Chapter 12 - Pgs 54 - 56*

There is a challenge to collecting coin and choosing what to collect is probably the most difficult. That is a personal choice and over a collector's lifetime it may change any number of times.

No matter what your passion is, collecting hand struck coins has an allure that collecting modern machine-made coins cannot match. The allure is one of history. The coins are made and used in many countries around the world. Although we write and research the coins of the Indian sub-continent the same thoughts and ideas apply to all hand struck coins from every dynasty across the world.

We hold in our hand a coin that has been used by many people in far off lands for everyday purposes. We face a number of challenges when we decide to start collecting and it does not matter whether we are a new collector starting out on our journey or a seasoned collector there are specific steps that should be taken to get the most of what will start as a hobby but end up as a passion.

Previously we have learned in the previous section called "WHICH COIN SHOULD A COLLECTOR BUY" what coin to look for but only briefly mentioned the sources for coins. We will expand on this section next. However there needs to be considerable thought and research undertaken before we make our first purchase.

Thankfully though at the start a collector needs very few things and in recent years the cost of these has reduced considerably.

1. Research material for the coins to be collected. It is much better to learn a little at the start than to make costly mistakes.
2. A simple magnifying glass to help in looking at the coin to ensure

complete attribution from all that is seen A three or four magnification is ample for hand struck coin.

3. A set of electronic calipers to check the dimensions.

4. A set of electronic scales to weigh the coin to check attribution and your research.

With those few things we can begin our quest. For coauthor Arthur Needham the journey has lasted 55 years and taken him across countless countries and remote areas following a passion to visit and see what the coins spoke about. The journey has been amazing.

The following sections discuss several major concerns for the collector whether it be a small private collector or a larger, open collection.

1. How to purchase coins for a collection.

2. Bronze Disease and horn Silver. Problems that may occur on coins. A discussion on its causes and cure.

3. A system of preservation and conservation of all coins.

4. How to store coins correctly to conserve and preserve them

5. For the advanced researcher the correct methodology for the use of noninvasive testing of coins using XRF technology.

6. Recording the collecting.

Continued on next page

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Several sections have been presented by world experts to ensure the practical information is provided. As collectors it is part of our duty of care to ensure the coins that pass through our hands are kept in at least the same condition as we received them in.

Cleaning of Hand Struck Coins

In coin collecting circles there is a continuing debate on coin cleaning. It is our contention that there is a major difference between how hand struck coins are treated (and graded) and how machine struck (modern coins) are treated.

Our views on grading note that a coin that is complete in every detail no matter what its condition is a superior coin to a coin with attribution details missing no matter what the condition and appearance.

Therefore, for hand struck coins there may be an actual need to clean them.

For older coins there is the possibility that they may have been degraded by chemical attack caused by their storage or their location before they were discovered. Bruce Nasset, a world authority on conditions such as these on coins has provided a complete process for the neutralizing of the problems that may occur on copper-based coins or silver coins.

Bruce also advises a cleaning process for hand struck coins. For many this may seem inappropriate but for hand struck coins it is a viable option. In the process he advises “Renaissance Wax or any hard type paste wax. It is rubbed on the surface etc” We recommend Renaissance Wax as part of our conservation and storage process.

Following the section On Bronze disease (etc) is a complete section on coin cleaning and conservation. The final process is the application of Renaissance Wax. Picreator Enterprises Ltd, the manufacturer of Renaissance Wax has developed a full cleaning and conservation system for coins. The process is a museum standard methodology for the conservation of coins. For coins that can be successfully fully attributed or are be attributed to the limit of what is shown on the strike then the four step

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process (three step for silver and gold although step one for gold should also not be necessary) we recommend the following system. Note: the process should be as described and safety precautions, if necessary, as shown on the product data sheets must be taken.

1. The use of Renaissance Metal De- Corroder
2. The use of Pre-Lim Surface Cleaner (not to be on precious metals)
3. The use of Vulpex Liquid Soap
4. The use of Renaissance Wax.

For coins that require treatment for the presence of Bronze Disease or Horn Silver then once the condition has been treated and correctly removed then this can be used.

In the Bronze Disease discussion there is a method for cleaning and conserving there is a cleaning method discussed. This is suitable for coins that need to be further treated to ensure full attribution can be seen.

All coins should be inspected at no longer than six monthly intervals to ensure that there is no presence of any attack on any of the coins. If any is found the coins must be removed immediately and treated as soon as possible. Bernard Nagengast, a world expert on coin storage, discusses the correct method of storage for coins. In this section there are descriptions of what happens when incorrect storage materials are used. Storage for a collection for most collections makes up only a fraction of the cost of coins and must be taken as a step of major importance for all collectors.

For advanced collectors, collections, and researchers the process of accurate metal content determination in coins by nondestructive methodology is discussed as a Standard Operating Procedure. With the correct operation of high standard equipment XRF is an eminently suitable method for testing. ♦

How Cheap A Rarity Can A Proof Mercury Dime Be?

Mark Benvenuto

It doesn't take an economic genius to realize that if we can purchase a rare item at a good price, it will end up being a good idea and a good deal should the day ever come when we have to sell it. We're all lovers of great coins, including rare ones; and it's fair to say that many of us know the prices of some of the key dates in one popular series or another. For example, the 1928 is the key Peace dollar, with only 360,649 of them minted. It will cost us hundreds of dollars to land a decent looking one, and in doing so cap off a complete a Peace dollar collection. The 1909-S VDB Lincoln cent is a bit more common, with 484,000 to its official tally, but will still drain us of nearly a thousand dollars should we want a decent one for our very own. The 1916 Standing Liberty quarter – another coveted rarity – starts out at a few thousand dollars for an example even in good condition, meaning G-4, which isn't that good at all. So how much might we expect a proof Mercury dime to cost?

To answer this question with more than just a number, let's look at the official mintage numbers of the proof Mercury dimes. Issued from 1936 to 1942, the totals climbed pretty steadily. The 1936 saw the rather tiny sum of 4,130 proofs produced. By 1940 the number had climbed into five figures, specifically 11,827 coins. The next year, 1941, saw a hefty jump, up to 16,557 pieces. And the final year of this septet, the 1942, saw 22,329 minted. By today's standards, and in comparison to those key coins we just noted, all of these are extremely rare.

If I do some quick math to determine just how fast the folks at the Philadelphia Mint could work, or could make the machinery go, it may be surprising as far as proof production. Here's what I mean: in 1942 there were 205,410,000 Mercury dimes made for circulation. Let's assume a five-day work week, and an eight-hour workday. That is basically 261 workdays

Continued on next page

(yes, I'm ignoring holidays) or 2,088 work hours for a year. Thus, the Mint personnel pounded out 205,410,000 dimes in 2,088 hours, or 98,376 dimes per hour. An interesting number when applied to the proofs.

What I mean to prove, or at least imply, with this math is that at normal speed, the Mint could produce 22,329 proof dimes in about 15 minutes, as the proof total is about four times less than the hourly total just computed. Yes, yes, right away you might say state that proofs are made with more care, that there is die and blank polishing and preparation, and that it ought to take more time to make a single proof Mercury dime than it does to make a circulating one. But all that being said, it still looks like making proof Mercury dimes is something that occupied a very small part of someone's day when working at the Mint back in 1942.

So, having gone through the math, it seems logical that the cost for any proof Mercury dime ought to be an astronomical number. Well, does \$200 strike any of us as astronomical? There's no typo here, we're quoting the major monthly price listings most of us use. And they claim that a 1942 proof Mercury dime will only run us about \$200. In short, amazing!

Going a bit farther, even the less common 1941 and 1940 proof Mercury dimes cost basically the same as their more common 1942 siblings. Assuming we can find them for sale, each of these extremely rare Mercury dimes runs about \$200.

In case I made a mistake in looking up the prices, let's check another. Let's wade into the waters of eBay, the eternal buy-and-sell-a-thon. In doing so, I found more than one of the 1942 proofs up for sale or bid. Curiously, one is a PF-66 certified 1942 with a "buy" price of \$240. The 1941's are represented as well with one at \$169 in PF-65 and in a certified holder to boot. The 1940's are also up there on the eternal e-auction block, as it were. One was a PF-65 for a \$220 buy price. So, it's no joke, and no smoke and mirrors show. The proof Mercury dimes – or at least the last year or so – cost far, far less than the much more celebrated rarities we have already mentioned. But this generates a one-word question: why?

The answer to this sort of query is going to have to be opinion, pure and

simple. Even though the Mercury dimes remain a series that collectors love, maybe folks perceive of the proofs as being too expensive simply because they are proofs. Maybe it's that they are not as desired as the 1916-D, which is needed to make a complete Mercury dime collection. Maybe there is some other reason we haven't figured quite yet. But what we have figured out is that there is a trio of proof Mercury dimes, real gems really, which are wildly under-valued. So, whether we are economic geniuses, or simply lovers of great coins, it certainly appears that a proof Mercury dime or two might be in the price range of just about all of us. ◇

Timothy Green Wrote History's Headlines

Carol Sommer

*This article was previously published in The Day on November 22, 2015, then submitted to Nena News by Larry Erhart, Vice-president of the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club in Westerly, RI.

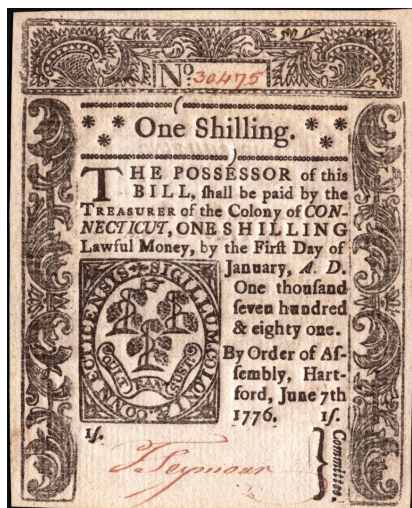
One of our monthly Series on Numismatic Lectures was a two-part Presentation by Richard August on the New England States Collection of Colonial Currency in January 2022 at the Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club that meets on the Third Thursday of the month at the Westerly Senior Center in Rhode Island. A fascinating side note from this seminar focused on Connecticut's famous printer Timothy Green from New London, CT. The Green Tavern still stands on Bank Street in New London. Herewith is a reprinted article from The Day newspaper about the history of Timothy Green, Connecticut's printer for NENA News. Prologue by Larry Erhart, Pawcatuck Club Vice President.

I was cleaning out a box of old papers when I found an 18-pence note printed in 1776 by Hall and Sellers, successors to Benjamin Franklin's

Continued on next page

Nena News 45

Philadelphia printing business. Folded beside it was a newspaper clipping describing a 10-shilling note printed in 1775 by Timothy Green. I'd always pictured colonial newsmen cranking out pamphlets and broadsides, but I hadn't thought about their role as printers of currency. Although I knew the Greens were important in New London, I never appreciated what a printing dynasty that family represented.



Obverse of 1776 Colonial Connecticut 1 Shilling Note



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In Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1649 Samuel Green took over Stephen Daye's printing business after Daye's death. Daye had published the Bay Psalm Book, the first book printed in British North America. The actual press used to print this historic book was used by the Greens in New London for generations!

Many of Samuel's descendants became printers, but of special interest to us are his great-grandsons, Thomas and Timothy. Thomas started the Hartford Courant, while Timothy published the New London Gazette, later renamed the Connecticut Gazette.

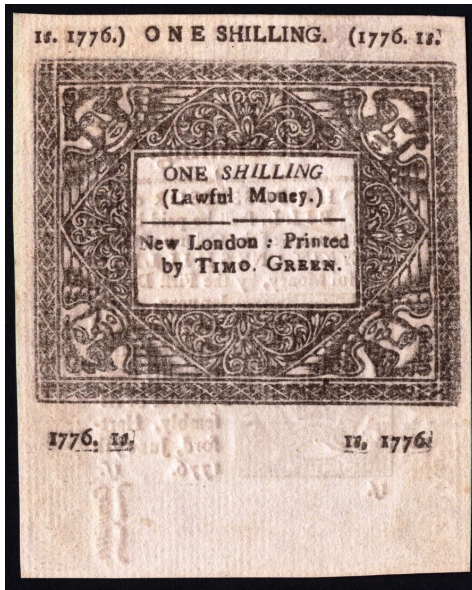
While there were several Timothy Greens, this story is about the Timothy who lived from 1737 to 1796. He had a shop in his home near the corner of State Street and (what would become) Green Street in New London, where he produced almanacs, newspapers, and government documents. Today this building is a restaurant.

Although his newspaper enjoyed a wide readership, it wasn't always profitable. Sometimes Timothy had to request payment in food so he could feed his large family. He struggled with other chronic challenges like broken printing presses and a shortage of rags for making paper.

I went to the New London County Historical Society to sample their extensive collection of Green newspapers. One paper from 1763 contained reports of European events. But even the colonial matters, like Newport maritime activities and a wrestling fatality in Baltimore, had an oddly international flavor because they were reported under a London headline. Local tidbits included news of stolen livestock and the sale of some Arnold property in Norwich.

That same newspaper also contained an article regarding "An Act of Parliament for the further improvement of His Majesty's Revenues...and for the Prevention of the clandestine Running of Goods into Any Part of His majesty's Dominions...enjoining Vigilance in suppressing...contraband Trade." Can you smell trouble brewing?

Continued on next page



*Reverse of 1776 Colonial Connecticut
1 Shilling Note*

Trouble arrived two years later when the Stamp Act imposed a tax on all printed material. Some printers closed their shops rather than comply, but Timothy continued to publish on unstamped paper, never missing an issue. When the hated law was repealed, Timothy exulted, “Glorious News ... It is impossible to express the joy the town is now in.” British-American relations continued to deteriorate, and on April 20, 1775, Isaac Bissell galloped into New London with news of Lexington and Concord. Due to “the alarming and confused state of public affairs” Timothy didn’t

run this story until April 28. Perhaps he was distracted by an order from the colonial assembly to print “with all Convenient speed” a large quantity of bills of credit to finance the coming unpleasantness. Timothy made his own political position clear by removing the royal insignia from the Gazette’s masthead.

In July 1776 Timothy scooped every other New England newspaper by being the first to print the Declaration of Independence. In September 1781, amid horrific chaos, Timothy published the account of Benedict Arnold’s assault on New London, the death toll, and an inventory of the destruction. A month later Timothy reported the victory at Yorktown, but it would be a long time before distraught New Londoners felt like celebrating.

With the war finally over, Timothy was no longer the official printer for the colony. The colony was gone; he was now a printer in the new nation he’d helped create. ◇

Fly-Speck Numismatics

C. John Ferreri



Exchange Bank \$1 note.

This attractive piece of paper money is a product of the New England Banknote Company as evidenced by the title imprinted in the left vertical margin of the note, and the American Banknote Company as noticed by the “ABNCo” monogram imprint in the lower left field of the note. In 1858, a group of bank note engraving companies joined together to form the American Banknote Company. Orders for bank notes from the day of merger forward had to display an imprint denoting the company responsible for engraving and printing it. Because of the large quantity of banknote plates that had to be re-engraved with the name American, etc. during that first year or so, the company placed only a monogram “ABNCo” on the plate. The full name of American Banknote Company would start appearing on subsequent printings a year or so later.

Dyed in the wool numismatists are often looking for the smallest variation of design that could signal the discovery of an important variety of a coin or piece of paper money. It could be a doubled-date or a “horn” protruding from some colonial era mailed bust. Do the letters in the motto have serifs? Is that an “O” stamped over a “CC”? Remember the “Double Dot Cent or a Bugs Bunny Half Dollar? How about a Buffalo, obviously on the dole due to its missing limb? Or, how about, “date over inverted

Continued on next page

date” that really looks perfectly fine to me? These minuscule design variations or engraving mistakes seem to add a new life to what could become a hum-drum affair of collecting, cataloguing, and stuffing of pieces into the proper holes of our collections. The thrill of the hunt for these sometimes miniscule differences adds a challenge to a pursuit, that under normal circumstances could become quite uninspiring.

The title of this article uses the term Numismatics (the study and collecting of coins, medals, tokens, paper money and related objects), but could have used Syngraphics (the study and collecting of paper money and related objects). While the latter is more accurate, it is a hard word to find in a dictionary. It was introduced to our lexicon by a collector and researcher of paper money, Gene Hessler in 1974. Gene and I happen to share an avocation that he has certainly mastered, and I still have trouble just trying to keep up with. We both collect and study, paper money! Gene’s contribution to the hobby in one of his books, *The Engraver’s Line*, expounds on the artistic component in paper money collecting. If one studies the images on paper money you will find that there are differences, as on coins. Not just variations, but even intentionally engraved differences in scenery that could add to the complete vignette to give it the proper gravitas we collectors like to find.

Take, for example the above pictured bank note. This syngraphic beauty was issued by the Exchange Bank of Boston, Massachusetts. The vignette is composed of various interesting artistic etchings. A young girl on the right is carrying an open basket containing some flora, the bank title and a large numeral “1” denoting the note’s value both appear in a beautiful font, which one could describe as being “calligraphic”. A train traversing a bridge is shown in the background. The eye is drawn though, to the main part of the vignette that displays a Native American warrior standing within a shield shaped arrangement of vegetation and produce. Massachusetts themed art very often included native portraits sometimes alongside a Pilgrim. The artist in this case while fulfilling his duty as a conveyor of actual fact, must have sensed the need for something else to complete the bank note’s intended duty to brag about history, location, or attention getting scene peculiar to this issue.

Continued on next page

A black and white photograph of the Boston skyline, featuring several prominent skyscrapers and a dense cluster of buildings. The image is used as a background for the top section of the advertisement.

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STACK'S BOWERS GALLERIES, America's oldest and most accomplished rare coin firm, is seeking an exceptional team to support our brand-new Boston gallery. The opening of our third retail store in the company's 89-year history presents an exciting opportunity for the right individuals to ensure the success of this location.

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It takes a sharp eye to make out the tiny figures departing the rowboat with what seems to be, “luggage” and heading for higher ground at the foot of the pines.

Now, do you see it? It’s small! Very small! Hardly a fly-speck! It’s not a secret mark or slip of the pen but a complete vignette of the Mayflower ship in the very distant background and a smaller rowboat in the foreground delivering a queue of Pilgrims, in their tall hats. These figures step right on to Plymouth Rock before getting their shoes wet while making it the rest of the way to the shore. Yes! The Landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock! There! Historic content has been served! Massachusetts may breathe a sigh of relief!

Miniscule scenery like this on state bank notes could be overlooked for years (as in my case) but do in fact serve a purpose by noting the gravity of an important emission of the Exchange Bank. This bank probably felt that they were more important than other banks and their notes were designed to convey that feeling! Every little bit of local (in this case, not quite local) history that can be attached to its well traveled emissions will add to its gravity. This event, as seen on this note, is not mentioned in any banknote reference or in any bank note reporter. I guess it was too small to be noticed!

Some notable events are indeed, recorded within the vignettes of obsolete currency but not often is the engraving so minute it escapes notice for a good period of time. Review your notes! There is a fair chance you could find something there that you hadn’t noticed before. It might only look like a fly-speck at first but could actually be something notable! ◇

A Call to Exhibit

NENA is seeking exhibits for our 78th, Conference & Convention. The competition will be held on Saturday October 15th, 2022 at the Double Tree by Hilton/Manchester Downtown Hotel, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH.

In this issue of NENA News, we include the Exhibit Rules and Application. Please fill out the Application and let the Exhibit Coordinators know the time of arrival that you want to set up the exhibit. All exhibitors have a deadline to fill out and send an application with the title and numismatic area of exhibiting. Exhibits have to be set up by a certain time so that cases can be locked and judged. An exhibit must consist of a title, numismatic items and usually but not necessarily numismatic information. Numismatic information usually enhances an exhibit especially if the exhibiting is to be competitive with judging. On request NENA will provide the use of display cases if needed.

Awards will be presented based on the overall rating of the Judges. Best of Show award will be presented to the exhibit with the highest overall rating and will receive a plaque and a prize award of a 1/10-ounce gold Eagle. 2nd and 3rd Place will receive an engraved plaque and a 1oz. Silver Eagle. The People's Choice Award will be decided by ballots cast by exhibit viewers and will receive an engraved plaque and a 1oz. Silver Eagle.

Junior Applicants under age 18 are eligible to receive a Y.N. Award Plaque for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place. They will also receive a numismatic prize.

Everyone has expertise in some collecting area, so if you are looking for a way to share this then exhibiting can be a wonderful way of doing it. NENA is always looking for people to set up and display an exhibit. If you have never set up an exhibit before notify NENA and we can help you. It is always a great learning experience.

For more information including rules and application see website (www.nenacoin.org) or request a hard copy by mail:

Send to: NENA EXHIBITS, P.O. Box 2061, Woburn, MA 01888

Exhibit Rules and Application
New England Numismatic Association
78th, Conference and Convention
Saturday, October 15th, 2022

EXHIBITORS

All Members of NENA in good standing and who submit a standard NENA exhibit application at least two (2) weeks prior to the conference date will be eligible to exhibit. NENA reserves the right to accept or reject any exhibit.

CATEGORIES

Categories are:

- United States Coins
- Foreign Coins
- Ancients (before 1300) and Medieval
- Paper Money
- Tokens and Medals
- Beauty
- Miscellaneous (items not covered by above)
- Junior (under age 18 [any material])

Exhibits are Competitive and Non-Competitive:

An Exhibitor may enter only one competitive exhibit. Non-Competitive exhibits will be accepted on a space-available basis at the discretion of the Exhibit Chairman. The Exhibitor will designate the exhibit category on the application; however, the Exhibit Chairman, after conferring with the Exhibitor, may transfer the exhibit to a different category.

SPACE

A non-competitive exhibit may comprise up to three (3) cases. Other conditions for competitive exhibits apply. No special locations, electrical connections, lights or special gimmicks will be permitted. NENA will provide supplemental lighting for all exhibits, if necessary.

MATERIAL

All material shall be the property of the Exhibitor. Exhibitors shall not violate any government regulation. Forged, spurious or counterfeit material in an exhibit for educational purposes shall be clearly identified as such.

SETUP/REMOVAL

Exhibits may be set up between 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Friday, October 14th, and between 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 15th. Exhibits must be set up prior to 10 A.M. on Saturday, October 15th, 2022. Exhibits may not be removed until after the awards presentation. Exhibits must be removed before 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, October 15th. All materials shall be prepared, set up, and removed by the Exhibitor unless prior arrangements have been made in writing with the Exhibit Chairman, to appoint one person as agent for the purpose of set-up, removal, and acceptance of any award bestowed on the Exhibitor.

SECURITY

All Exhibitors will lock their cases in the presence of the Exhibit Chairman. Once the case is locked, it can not be opened by the Exhibitor until the exhibit is removed.

LIABILITY

The New England Numismatic Association, the Convention Committee, EBW Promotions, LLC, including employees and contractors and/or the Meeting Facility, shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, or injury that may occur to Exhibitors or their property from any cause whatsoever, prior, during, or subsequent to the period of the Convention. The Exhibitor expressly releases the above-named entities from, and agrees to indemnify same and hold harmless against any and all claims from such loss, damage, or injury.

Exhibit Application
New England Numismatic Association
78th, Conference and Convention
Saturday, October 15th, 2022

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Specify day, evening, or both): _____

Email _____

I, the Exhibitor/Guardian/Agent, understand and agree to abide by the exhibit rules of the New England Numismatic Association which are incorporated herein by reference.

Signed: _____ Exhibitor Date: _____

Signed: _____ Parent/Guardian Date: _____

I, Exhibitor, hereby assign _____ as my agent to set up and remove my exhibit and to receive any award presented for my exhibit.

Signed: _____ Agent Date: _____

TITLE OF EXHIBIT: _____

Category (Please Check One):

<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coins	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Coins	<input type="checkbox"/> Beauty
<input type="checkbox"/> Ancient/Medieval	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper Money	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior
<input type="checkbox"/> Tokens & Medals	<input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Competitive

How many cases does your exhibit comprise? _____

Do you want a NENA case for your exhibit? _____

Will you use your own case(s)? _____

If yes, outside dimensions: _____

Estimated Time of arrival for setup (day and time): _____

For complete rules see website (www.nenacoin.org) or request a hard copy by mail:
Send to: NENA EXHIBITS, P.O. Box 2061, Woburn, MA 01888

Club Meetings

Berkshire Coin Club, Meets at the Berkshire Museum, 39 South St., Pittsfield MA. on the fourth Sunday of the month at 2 P.M. September-May. For information (413) 499-1400

Blackstone Valley Coin & Collectibles Club, Uxbridge Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge, MA 01569, Every third Tuesday except July & August. Doors open 6:00PM, Meeting 7:00-9:00PM. Auction every month. For info call Michael McDonald (774) 280-4333

Boston Numismatic Society, New Light Korean Church (same location as the the Trinity Church), 730 Main St., Waltham, MA. Meetings second Tuesday, Sept. - June, 7:30 P.M. For information call (617) 244-1972 (Colony Coin) or e-mail to bosnumsoc@yahoo.com

Central Connecticut Coin Club, South Windsor Public Library, Sullivan Ave., South Windsor, CT. Meetings every month on the first Tuesday. For information: Gene Forte (860) 290-1522

Collectors Club of Boston: Meetings fourth Tuesday, Sept.-June, 7:00 P.M. Trinity Church, 730 Main St., Waltham, MA. For information (781) 938-8167 or email williamharkins@comcast.net

Currency Club of New England: Trinity Church, 730 Main St., Waltham, MA; Meetings all at 7:30 P.M. the first Monday, Oct.-June, except for September the second Monday of the month. For information Kevin Lafond, P.O. Box 4724, Portsmouth, NH 03802-4724, email kglafond@comcast.net or phone (603) 498-2042

Gateway Coin Club, Ballard Hill Community Center, Corner Pleasant and Main Streets, Lincoln, ME. Meetings first Tuesday, 7 P.M. For information call (207) 794-6833

Gorham Coin Club, Meets at the Scarborough Veterans Home, 290 U.S. Route 1 Scarborough, ME at 7:00 P.M. on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month. For Information contact Alysia Williams phone (207) 408-1868 or email at blackbeltwizard@yahoo.com

Coin Club of Greater New Bedford: Meetings fourth Tuesday, 6 P.M. at the Acushnet Public Library, 232 Middle Rd., Acushnet, MA 02743 For information Patrick Curran, President, P.O. Box 2991, New Bedford, MA 02741. Shows on 5th Sundays at VFW Poirier Post 3260, 281 Appleton St., New Bedford, MA or visit us on the web at www.ccnb.com

Mansfield Numismatic Society, Mansfield Center Library, (Route 89) 54 Warrenville Road, Mansfield Center, CT. Meeting 4th Monday Sept. through April (except Dec.) 7:30 P.M. For info www.MansfieldNumismaticSociety.org or call John (860) 429-6970 (6-9 P.M.)

Nashua Coin Club, Nashua Public Library, 2 Court Street, Nashua, NH. Meetings second Wednesday 7 P.M., except October. www.nashuacoinclub.org

Newport County Coin Club, Meetings the second Tuesday of the month, 6:30 P.M. at the 2nd floor conference room, Stop & Shop, 199 Connell Highway, 401-845-2220, (Near Wal-Mart), Newport RI. For information contact Carlton Johnson email: Carltonjr@aol.com

Sterling Coin Club. Meetings the 1st Friday of every month at 6:30PM. Sterling Town Hall, Main St. (Rte 62) Sterling, MA. For info contact tbavosi@HrsRevCycle.com

Oxford Nipmuc Coin Club, Meetings the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Oxford senior Center, 323 Main St., Oxford, MA. For info lisirichard15@Yahoo.com

Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club, Pawcatuck Valley Coin Club; Meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 P.M. Westerly Senior Center, 39 State St., Westerly, RI 02891- Information at www.pawcatuckvalleycoinclub.com

Southbridge Coin & Stamp Club, Sturbridge Coffee House, 407B Main St., Sturbridge, MA. Meetings at 7:30PM on the third Friday of each month, For info contact Mark gluemark@gmail.com

Stoneham Coin Club, United Methodist Church, 273 Vernon Street, Wakefield, MA. Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8 P.M. Auctions on the second meeting of the month. For info, contact Jim Keefe (Cell: 781-420-9997, Home 781-620-0502)

West Springfield Coin Club, Church of the Good Shepherd, Elm Street, West Springfield, MA. Meetings second Sunday, September - June, 7 P.M.

Worcester County Numismatic Society, St Joseph's Hall, 8 Central St., Auburn, MA. Meetings second Friday, September - June, 7:00 P.M. Doors open 6 pm. YN meeting @ 6:15. For information: Mike Simpson at 508-667-9968 or WCNS, PO Box 1079, Douglas, MA 01516 or www.worcestercoinclub.org

To list club meetings and activities in upcoming issues of NENA NEWS, send information along with your name, title and telephone number to: NenaNews@NenaCoin.org

Urgently Needed For Nena News!

Articles wanted for publication by Nena member authors!

The last issue saw the largest amount of member participation in many, many years. Eight to nine articles and the new column, “Junk Box Reporter” caused the past few issues on the “News” to reach 48-56 pages from a nadir of about 24 pages three years ago. This was a welcomed development but did empty our reserve of future articles and “Junk Box Reporter” notices.

We are asking both senior and junior members to contribute by penning a short article or two each year so we can continue to share with our other members and clubs, what we like to talk and write about. A quick perusal through the pages of some of the back- issues should inform one of the various topics that could be enjoyed by the rest of us.

While we appreciate receiving articles of some length (3-6 pages) smaller articles would also do nicely. The column, “Junk Box Reporter” has been attractive to readers reporting unusual or numismatic finds of value in strange places or under strange circumstances. Everyone seems to have a short story that would fit into this column.

Now that the Covid-19 pandemic seems to be on the wane, you may find you have time to write about your numismatic experiences. If so, perhaps trying a little authoring for your regional newsletter will appear to be attractive to you. Submitting your paper as a Word doc and any images as jpgs is helpful. We are always here to help and will gladly try to guide you through any attempt at writing an article for us! For help or information please contact me at johnnybanknote@yahoo.com. Additional contact information may be found on page #3 of Nena News.

C. John Ferreri, Advertising and Editorial Content

Important message for authors:

The ideal formats for Nena News to accept manuscripts are: "Word" document for text and "jpg" for images. There are other formats we can often convert from but "pdf" format is not easily converted to something compatible for this publication. Manuscripts in "pdf" format should be sent only to show the location where graphics are to be placed.

Please send "Word" documents and jpgs to:
John Ferreri P.O. Box #33 Storrs, CT 06268

NENA NEWS

YEARLY PUBLICATION DATES & ADVERTISING RATES

Issue #1 March 1st....Issue #2 June 1st....Issue #3 Sept.15th....Issue #4 Dec 1st

Full Page.....\$60 per issue

Half Page.....\$40 per issue

Third Page.....\$30 per issue

Inside front or back cover....\$65 per issue

(10% discount for advertising in multiple issues)

(Please include check with order and to qualify for discount)

(Deadline for articles is two weeks prior to publication date)

Ads and Articles Representative.....C. John Ferreri

P.O. Box #33 Storrs, CT 06268 860-429-6970

johnnybanknote@yahoo.com

Notice to Dues Delinquent Members

For your convenience a "dues return envelope" was provided in the last NENA News mailing. Some members may have not noticed it or have forgotten. To remain current please check to see if you are paid up to at least 12-31-22. If not, you are in arrears. This information will appear on the address label of this current "Nena News" issue. If you are not in current status, this issue (March 2022) will be the final issue we can provide.

If there is a question regarding your membership please contact the membership director, Mr. Robert Fritsch at: P.O. Box 3003 Nashua, NH 03061 or bobfritsch@earthlink.net.



New England Numismatic Association, Inc.

Membership Application

Please Print

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone _____

City/Town _____ State & Zip _____

Numismatic Interests _____

ANA Number _____ Other Affiliations _____

E-mail address _____

Applicant's Signature _____

**Complete form and send with check payable to NENA
C/O Robert F. Fritsch, P. O. Box 3003, Nashua, NH 03061-3003**

NENA News, a quarterly publication of the New England Numismatic Association is included with membership.

Individual or club dues for 1 year	\$15
Individual or club dues for 2 years	\$30
Individual or club dues for 3 years (11% discount)	\$40
Individual (Less then 65 yrs old) or club dues for lifetime	\$250
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It's time to pay your dues!!

Dear Member:

Your membership expiration date appears on the address label. We would appreciate having all dues remitted as soon as possible so that the membership list may be updated. We want you as a member. **Dues schedule appears on page 59.** Life Members do not pay annual dues. Dues may be paid at our booth at the conference or send your check or money order payable to N.E.N.A. to:

NENA Membership
Robert F. Fritsch
P. O. Box 3003
Nashua, NH 03061-3003

Thank you for your support of NENA. Please consider including a donation to the Past Presidents' Fund. This fund supports our Young Numismatics activities and programs. Our Y/N program needs your contribution to keep our hobby strong.